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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Simeon Spencer, senior pastor of Union Baptist Church in Trenton, N.J.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, we bow with thanksgiving for the privilege and call of service given the lawmakers of our great Nation. We are awed by the grace that brings us all to this place and the gravity of the work with which these elected officials have been entrusted. In the wonder of such grace and in the face of crucial hours, we confess now with humility the limits of human knowledge, of frailty of human ability, and the finitude of human ways. And so, in these moments we petition You, You the all-knowing for understanding, the all-powerful for strength, the everlasting to everlasting for endurance.

We pray that You will equip both the Members of this body and those who advise them with the gifts of Your Spirit, so that the work which brings them here might be executed in a manner worthy of Your holy Name, bring honor to the memory of those who have served before them, and inspire trust in those who have sent them. We wait now in hope for the fulfillment of faith that "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

These things we pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 21, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate will begin debate today on cut,

cap, and balance, the plan approved earlier this week in the House. This means Senators will now have the opportunity to go on record either in support of balancing our books or against it.

This is an opportunity for everyone to take a stand. It is an opportunity to say that a government which borrows more than 40 cents of every \$1 it spends is not sustainable and very much needs to change its ways. It is an opportunity to stand with those who believe Washington needs to heal its addiction to spending now, not make more false promises of spending restraint sometime later.

The President's veto threat of this legislation is telling. Many of us learned a long time ago to pay more attention to what this President does than what he says. Anyone who has witnessed his reckless spending habits over the past 2½ years or sat across the negotiating table with him over the past few weeks could be forgiven for being skeptical of his recent attempts to come across as a fiscal moderate.

I will just say this: There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that this President is as deeply committed to a government we cannot afford as he was on Inauguration Day.

That is why we have decided to bring our case directly to the American people with the cut, cap, and balance plan, which forces Washington to get its fiscal house in order with a constitutional amendment.

It is nice that some people are hoping the President has had a change of heart, but no one should be planning on it. Cut, cap, and balance cuts spending now, caps it in the future, and only raises the debt ceiling if it is accompanied by a constitutional amendment to balance the Federal budget.

That is what America wants, and it is what Washington needs. All we need is 20 Democrats to join us. At least 23 of them have led their constituents to believe they would fight for a balanced

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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